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**JAN 30 2006**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
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**TO:** U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Examiner: Brian J. Sines  
Art Unit: 1743

**DATE:** January 30, 2006

**FROM:** Barry M. Shuman/Wei-Ning Yang

**TIME:**

**TOTAL NO. OF PAGES, INCLUDING COVER:** 10

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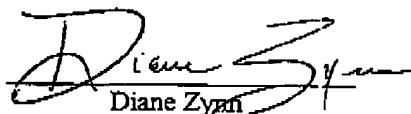
**MESSAGE:**

RE: U.S. Patent Application Serial No.: 09/915,865; Attorney Ref: 2009-174 (81841.0155).  
I hereby certify that the following documents:

- Amendment Transmittal Letter/Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.116

are being facsimile transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, for filing in the above application.

January 30, 2006  
Date of Deposit



**TELECOPY/FAX NUMBER:** (571) 273-8300 – Art Unit 1743

**CLIENT NUMBER:** 81841.0155

**ATTORNEY BILLING NUMBER:** 6085

**CONFIRMATION NUMBER:** 703-305-0401 (please return fax to Diane Zynn)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Richard R. Sharpe, Jr. et al.

Serial No: 09/915,865

Filed: July 26, 2001

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OBJECT-  
ORIENTED REAL-TIME MECHANICAL CONTROL OF  
AUTOMATED CHEMISTRY INSTRUMENTS

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.

No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

	(Col. 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Col. 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Col. 3) PRESENT EXTRA*	LG/SM \$ ENTITY FEE		ADD'L FEE DUE
TOTAL CLAIMS FEE	7	-	26	**	0	LG=\$50 SM=\$25	\$0
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS FEE	1	-	4	***	0	LG=\$200 SM=\$100	\$0
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS						LARGE ENTITY FEE = \$360 SMALL ENTITY FEE = \$180	\$ 0
ADDITIONAL SIZE FEE (IF ANY) (TOTAL PAGES OF SPEC AND DRAWINGS TOGETHER)						\$250 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL 50 SHEET!;	\$ 0
Independent Claims: 7						TOTAL	\$ 0

- \* If the entry in Col. 1 is less than the entry in Col. 2, write "0" in Col. 3.
- \*\* If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, write "20" in this space.
- \*\*\* If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, write "3" in this space. The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found from the equivalent box on Col. 1 of a prior amendment or the number of claims originally filed.

- Please charge the fee of \$    for the additional claim fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1314. A copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- Please charge the fee of \$    for the    extension of time to Deposit Account No. 50-1314. A copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies of fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1314. A copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Any filing fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 for the presentation of extra claims  
 Any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17

Respectfully submitted,

HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

By: 

Wei-Ning Yang (Contact Person)

Registration No. 38,690

Attorney for Applicant(s)

Barry M. Shuman

Registration No. 50,220

Date: January 30, 2006

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LA-81841.0165-255703 v1

Appl. No. 09/915,865  
 Amdt. Dated January 30, 2006  
 Reply to Office Action of November 30, 2005

Attorney Docket No. 2009-174 (81841.0155)  
 Customer No. 26021

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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Richard R. Sharpe, Jr., et al.

Serial No.: 09/915,865

Confirmation No.: 7692

Filed: July 26, 2001

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
 OBJECT-ORIENTED REAL-TIME  
 MECHANICAL CONTROL OF  
 AUTOMATED CHEMISTRY  
 INSTRUMENTS

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Mail Stop AF  
 Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action dated November 30, 2005, please consider the following remarks:

**Listing of Claims** begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 4 of this paper.

Art Unit: 1743

Examiner: Brian J. Sines

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to (571) 273-8300: Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on	
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